Independence of higher education

177. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has stated that there is no hurry to free the higher education;

(b) whether Government has felt that there was no consensus among stakeholders on National Knowledge Commission (NKC)'s recommendations to establish an independent regulatory authority for higher education;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Union Government;

(d) which organizations have opposed this move;

(e) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken by the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. The XIth Plan for higher education is oriented towards several measures for reforming the sector.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Teachers' organizations are opposed to several recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission. Conferences of Vice Chancellors organized by the University Grants Commission have also not endorsed it.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Uniform guideline for minority status

178. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has replied in the negative to the recommendations made by the National Commission for Minorities, for uniform national guidelines to determine minority status of educational institutions;

(b) if so, whether NCM had made these suggestions to the Ministry in April, 2008;

(c) whether the main aim of the NCM was that the right to determine minority status of a community must be vested with the Union Government, to avoid State-wise discrepancies;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for the same; and

(e) whether Government has totally rejected the suggestions?